

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF OXFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 7, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Environmental Commission members in attendance at the Wednesday, July 7, 2021 meeting were: Chair, Mr. Jon Ralinovsky; Vice-Chair and City Council Representative, Ms. Chantel Raghu; Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Jason Bracken, Mr. Andor Kiss, Mr. Steven Elliott, and Ms. Heather Barrett. A quorum was present. Mr. Justin Fain had previously notified the Commission that he would not be present at the evening's meeting. Ms. Madison Scott, the climate and sustainability intern with the City of Oxford, was also in attendance.

Mr. Elliott moved for approval of the minutes from the June 2, 2021 Environmental Commission meeting; Mr. Bracken seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Discussion:

A) Introduction of New Commission Member

Staff introduced Ms. Heather Barrett to the Commissioners. Ms. Barrett had recently been appointed to the Environmental Commission by City Council.

B) Oxford Comprehensive Plan Input Project

Mr. Ralinovsky presented the three questions to potentially be included in the Comprehensive Plan revision's public survey. The questions had been prepared by Ms. Raghu, Mr. Kiss, and Mr. Ralinovsky. The questions were:

- 1) How do you feel about the balance of greenspace and the type/amount of development in the Oxford area?
- 2) What additional measures should Oxford pursue to change the composition (and/or reduce the volume) of its waste stream?
- 3) What additional energy usage strategies should the Oxford pursue in terms of sustainability?

Commissioners indicated that they agreed with the topics and the presentation of the questions, and believed they would potentially provide good guidance for the Commission's future efforts. Mr. Ralinovsky moved for approval of the questions; Mr.

Elliott seconded. The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the questions for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan's public survey. Mr. Ralinovsky will provide the questions, along with the previously approved description of the Commission's duties, responsibilities, and recent accomplishments to Ms. Jessica Greene, Oxford's Assistant City Manager.

C) Stormwater BMPs/Riparian Buffers for Pending Development

Stream setback areas of undeveloped land adjacent to waterways were discussed. Utilizing generalized concepts from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' "Rainwater and Land Development" Manual and specifics from the Warren County Building and Zoning Department's Code ("Overlay Districts"), it was proposed that the stream set back distances be based upon a waterway's watershed drainage area. Oxford is located within the Acton Lake Dam – Four Mile Creek sub-watershed, which has an area of approximately 41.5 square miles. The proposed stream setback areas for consideration are:

One hundred (100) feet on either side of all waterways draining an area equal to or greater than twenty (20) square miles;

Seventy five (75) feet on either side of all waterways draining an area equal to or greater than one-half (0.5) square mile or three hundred twenty (320) acres; and

Fifty (50) feet on either side of all waterways draining an area less than one-half (0.5) square mile or three hundred twenty (320) acres.

Additionally, Warren County incorporates the extent of the one hundred (100) year floodplain (as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency) into the distance of the stream setback; i.e., if the 100-year floodplain extends beyond the specified setback distance, the distance will be increased to encompass the boundary of the 100-year floodplain. Both the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' "Rainwater and Land Development" Manual and Warren County's Code also specifically reference potential inclusion of wetlands into the setback distances. The amount of distances involved are based upon the quality category of the wetland, as determined by the OEPA's Ohio Rapid Assessment Method. Commissioners were in general agreement with this approach. For the August 4, 2021 Environmental Commission meeting, Mr. Kiss is to research the areas of the various watersheds within Oxford. Mr. Ralinovsky and Staff are to review the above-referenced documents and Oxford's Codified Ordinances to determine what terms to be used and determine the definitions that will be needed.

D) “Solarized Oxford” Update

Ms. Raghu informed the Commission that the installation of roof-mounted solar panels on seven residences and one church in Oxford by PRO Lighting, Inc. had encountered a delay. The start of the installs are now tentatively scheduled for the week of July 12 – 16, 2021. Completion of the installations is anticipated by mid-August, 2021.

Staff informed the Commission that five proposals had been received by Oxford for the solar array development at the closed landfill. Presently, Oxford personnel are in the process of evaluating the proposals for the solar array development.

Other Business

Staff updated the Commission on the monthly emission monitoring event of the landfill’s 23 passive gas vents for June. At approximately 125 metric tons (MT) total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) for the entire landfill, June’s monthly total value was below the average value of approximately 145 MT since October, 2020. Six of the 23 passive vents contribute approximately 78% to the total CO₂e emissions to date, with one vent (gas vent #23) contributing almost a third of the total CO₂e values by itself. The fluctuations in the total monthly CO₂e values (ranging from 23.7 MT to 291.7 MT) suggests that the landfill emissions are not particularly steady over time, and that continued monitoring will likely be necessary to determine an accurate estimate of the landfill’s CO₂e emissions. Staff has also started to note the temperature of each vent’s emissions. Since March 2021, there has been a marked increase in the emissions’ temperature, but not necessarily a corresponding increase in the total CO₂e values.

Staff provided a summary of the on-going residential food scraps drop-off program. Since the program started in April 2019 and through July 1, 2021 (117 weeks), approximately 84,250 pounds (42.1 tons) of food scraps have been collected for composting. This is approximately 720 pounds per week on average, with the program’s expense coming to \$0.31 per pound. For 2021, a total of just under 20,600 pounds has been collected in 25 weeks, with a weekly average of just over 820 pounds, and a program’s expense of \$0.28 per pound.

Adjournment

Commissioners concluded discussions at 7:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly Environmental Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on August 4, 2021, in the Municipal Building’s first floor conference room.